

SECRETARY'S HONOR AWARDS CATEGORIES

1. EXPANDING ECONOMIC AND TRADE OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

This category recognizes those who demonstrate an outstanding level of accomplishment by providing fair, cost-effective and efficient farm income support programs to help ensure long-term income stability for farmers and ranchers; assisting United States agricultural producers to manage risks effectively; and, expanding market opportunities to United States agricultural producers.

2. PROMOTING HEALTH BY PROVIDING ACCESS TO SAFE, AFFORDABLE, AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD

This category recognizes those who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to reducing hunger and improving nutrition with targeted nutrition assistance; reducing the incidence of foodborne illness and ensuring that commercial supplies are safe and wholesome; and, promoting better nutrition, health, and well-being through nutrition education, promotion, and research.

3. MAINTAINING AND ENHANCING THE NATION'S NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

This category recognizes contributions supporting the productive capacity of the natural resource base for future generations; protecting the quality of the environment; and, providing multiple benefits to people from the Nation's forests and rangelands (which includes greening the Government through leadership in environmental management).

4. ENHANCING THE CAPACITY OF ALL RURAL RESIDENTS, COMMUNITIES, AND BUSINESSES TO PROSPER

This category recognizes contributions which support enhancing job opportunities in rural communities and, improving the standard of living for rural residents; and, ensuring the neediest rural residents and communities have access to the technical assistance needed to be successful and equal access to USDA credit programs.

5. OPERATING AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE, AND DISCRIMINATION-FREE ORGANIZATION

This category recognizes those who, over time, consistently demonstrate an outstanding level of accomplishment in furthering the mission of USDA through providing high quality and convenient service; ensuring effective and efficient management of human capital; ensuring that USDA policies, practices and programs provide fair and equitable service and enforce the civil rights of all USDA employees and customers; improving financial management and reporting; strengthening the management of information technology utilizing best practices and innovative solutions that will enable efficient and effective means in the delivery of Department programs and services; and, ensuring USDA facilities are maintained and operated in a safe, cost-effective and efficient manner.

6. HEROISM AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

This category recognizes USDA employees who perform acts of unusual selflessness or heroism in the line of duty. This category also recognizes those who demonstrate an outstanding level of accomplishment in responding to floods, fires, storms, earthquakes, disease outbreaks, or other conditions requiring emergency response.

IN MAKING NOMINATIONS, AGENCIES MUST GIVE EQUAL CONSIDERATION TO ALL EMPLOYEES REGARDLESS OF DUTY STATION OR GRADE LEVEL. AGENCIES MUST ENSURE THAT NOMINATIONS ARE NONDISCRIMINATORY ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AGE, DISABILITY, SEX, MARITAL STATUS, FAMILIAL STATUS, PARENTAL STATUS, RELIGION, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, PROTECTED GENETIC INFORMATION, POLITICAL BELIEFS, REPRISAL OR SOURCE OF INCOME (PUBLIC ASSISTANCE).